

REPORT OF NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 1st June 1895.

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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.		CALCUTTA.			
<i>Tri-monthly.</i>					
1	"Abodh Bodhini" ...	Calcutta	About 677		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Banganivasi" ...	Ditto	" 5,000	24th May 1895.	
2	"Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	" 20,000	25th ditto.	
3	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto	" 4,000	24th ditto.	
4	"Mihir" ...	Ditto	"	25th ditto.	
5	"Sahachar" ...	Ditto	About 500	22nd ditto.	
6	"Samay" ...	Ditto	" 4,000	24th ditto.	
7	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto	" 3,000	25th ditto.	
8	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto	" 800	27th ditto.	
9	"Sudhakar" ...	Ditto	" 3,000		
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika" ...	Ditto	" 200	23rd and 24th May 1895.	
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika." ...	Ditto	" 200	26th to 30th ditto.	
	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto	" 500	27th May 1895.	
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto	" 200		
5	"Sulebh Dainik" ...	Ditto	" 1,000	24th and 27th to 30th May 1895.	
HINDI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	" 800		
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	" 9,000	27th May 1895.	
3	"Uchit Vakta" ...	Ditto	"		
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Bhārat Mitra" ...	Ditto	"	24th and 26th to 28th May 1895.	
URDU.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide." ...	Ditto	About 400	23rd May 1895.	
2	"General and Gauharisafi" ...	Ditto	" 300	24th ditto.	
BENGALI.		BURDWAN DIVISION.			
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura	" 500		
2	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria	" 298		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan	350 to 400	21st May 1895.	
2	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura	500		
3	"Darsak" ...	Ditto	"	26th ditto.	
4	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly	754	24th ditto.	
BENGALI.		PRESIDENCY DIVISION.			
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	"Ghosak" ...	Khulna	350		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad	280	22nd May 1895.	
2	"Murshidabad Pratinidhi" ...	Berhampore	200		
3	"Pratikar" ...	Ditto	603	24th ditto.	

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
	URIYA.	ORISSA DIVISION.			
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Shikshabandhu" ...	Cuttack ...	.....	.....	Only six copies have been issued since the paper was received in January 1894. Some 200 copies of each issue are said to have been circulated, but no subscribers have been registered.
2	"Utkalprabha" ...	Mayurbhunj ...	3		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore ...	190		
2	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto ...	309		This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.
3	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack ...	412		
4	"Sambalpur Patriot" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....	.....
	HINDI.	PATNA DIVISION.			
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur ...	500		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Aryavarta" ...	Dinapur ...	1,000		
	URDU.				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch" ...	Bankipur ...	500	20th May 1895.	
2	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya ...	400		
3	"Mehre Monawar" ...	Muzaffarpur ...	150		
	BENGALI.	RAJSHAHI DIVISION.			
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Bagura Darpan" ...	Bogra ...	.....	22nd May 1895.	
2	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	283		
3	"Rangpur Dikprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur ...	300		
	HINDI.				
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling ...	150	.....	It is said that 550 copies of the paper are printed each month. Out of this number 150 copies are distributed among the subscribers and the rest sold to the public at three pies per copy.
	BENGALI.	DACCA DIVISION.			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	280		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Charu Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	900	21st May 1895.	
2	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca ...	450		
3	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Ditto ...	250	25th ditto.	
4	"Vikrampur" ...	Lauhajangha, Dacca ...	500	23rd ditto.	
	ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	500	27th ditto.	
	BENGALI.	CHITTAGONG DIVISION.			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Tripura Prakash" ...	Comilla ...	.....	13th May 1895.	
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong ...	120		
	BENGALI.	ASSAM.			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Paridarshak" ...	Sylhet ...	240		
2	"Srihattavasi" ...	Ditto ...	* 160		* Entry based on information supplied by the Deputy Postmaster-General, Assam.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

A correspondent of the *Tripura Prakash* of the 13th May writes that, while coming from Muradnagar to Gayna, he found floating near the Gumti bridge a dead body, evidently that of a Hindustani cooly, with a weight tied round it. He saw at the same time four men coming to the river and throwing into it the dead body of another cooly very much in the same condition. A man protested against their throwing the body into the river, but in vain. The local police should look into the matter.

TRIPURA PRAKASH,
May 13th, 1895.

2. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 22nd May draws the attention of Government to an instance of careless waste of Government property. Near the pleaders' room in the Berhampore civil court there are a mahogany and a *Gandhabiraja* (*Pinus longifolia*) tree, which have become overgrown with parasites, on account of the negligence of the court officers. The two trees are valuable public property which, if carefully preserved, would have fetched the Government three or four hundred rupees. Even now their sale is likely to realize a fair price. But the Government officers are carelessly allowing the valuable property to waste. It is surely very strange that the Government, which is very mindful of small economies and would move heaven and earth to establish its right to the property of doubtful value of an heirless person, should thus allow valuable public property to run to waste.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
May 22nd, 1895.

3. The Government is trying, says the *Vikrampur* of the 23rd May, to make the chaukidars a respectable class of public officers, but does it care to know that their superior officers, the panchayets, are being treated in a way which is highly calculated to lower their position in the estimation of the public? Only the other day the Magistrate of Faridpur, Mr. Herald of the Baladhan case fame, forced as many as 50 panchayets to serve as special constables. Some time ago the police authorities of Chuadanga, it is said, tried to make a panchayet do duty for a chaukidar, while in Mymensingh the panchayets are being ill-treated in various ways. The district authorities have laid it down as a rule that the panchayets shall themselves carry the chaukidari tax to the police-station, and that if they fail to deposit the tax in due time, their movable property shall be sold by auction in order to realize the money to pay the chaukidars with. After this, very few gentlemen will have the inclination to serve as panchayets.

VIKRAMPUR,
May 23rd, 1895.

4. The *Hitavadi* of the 24th May has the following:—

The Tollygunge police in the case of two orphans. A woman in Tollygunge, near Calcutta, committed suicide, leaving behind her two infant sons and one infant daughter, but no relatives and probably no property. There being, consequently, no one to take charge of the children, their case was brought to the notice of Mr. Collier, District Magistrate of the 24-Parganas, who wrote to the authorities of the Calcutta Orphanage, requesting them to take the boys and the girl under their care. On receiving the Magistrate's letter, Babu Pran Krishna Datta, Superintendent of the orphanage, went over to Tollygunge to see the children, one of whom was found by him in a dying condition and died shortly after. Babu Pran Krishna left his own name and address and the name and address of the orphanage at the Tollygunge thana, and informed the Magistrate of his intention to take the children into the orphanage, requesting him to send them there in a carriage, the hire of which would be paid by the orphanage authorities. The Magistrate accordingly ordered the Tollygunge police to send the children immediately to the orphanage. In due course the police reported to him that they had sent the two children to the orphanage. Here the matter ended for a few days.

HITAVADI,
May 24th, 1895.

In the meantime, Mr. Collier had written to the Government of Bengal to grant to the orphanage the usual allowance of one rupee per month on account of each of the two children. But when on receiving the Government's reply, sanctioning the allowance, he asked Babu Pran Krishna to draw the allowance, he was informed that the children in question had not up to that

time arrived at the orphanage. On this, Mr. Collier called for an explanation from the police, and was informed that the police had sent the children to St. Vincent's Home in Kidderpore and not to the Calcutta Orphanage. As Babu Pran Krishna had himself gone over to Tollygunge and left at the police-station his own name and address and those of the orphanage, no mistake on the part of the police can have been possible. Who, then, is responsible for this act of the police in sending Hindu orphans, contrary to the Magistrate's order, to a Christian asylum, when there is a Hindu orphanage in existence which was quite willing to take charge of them?

Happily in the present case, the children being too young could not be converted to Christianity immediately after their admission into the Home. But all the attempts which have since been made to remove them to the orphanage have proved unsuccessful. The St. Vincent's Home authorities say that they have sent the children to Balasore, and the police have, after receiving this reply, taken no further steps to recover them. The Superintendent of the orphanage has made a diligent search for the children, but has failed to obtain any trace of them.

In reference to this case it may be asked, first, how did the police manage to forget everything about the Calcutta Orphanage after Babu Pran Krishna Dutta's visit to Tollygunge; secondly, what became of the clothes, boxes and domestic utensils of the children's mother; and thirdly, why were the children sent to the St. Vincent's Home and removed from there to Balasore without the Magistrate's permission? Considering how anxious Christian missionaries are to strengthen their flock, and that even in times of scarcity and distress they distribute alms solely with the object of inducing people to adopt Christianity, the missionaries cannot have hesitated to receive the children into their fold, so as to increase its numerical strength. But is it a proof of high-mindedness to take advantage of the helpless condition of orphan children who cannot distinguish between right and wrong, and whose mental faculties are not developed, to convert them to Christianity? The police, too, should be made to explain why they stealthily sent the children to a Christian Home. Government should make an enquiry into the case, and punish those police officers who thus acted in violation of the Magistrate's order.

GENERAL AND
GAUHARIASFI,
May 24th 1895.

5. The *General and Gauhariasfi* of the 24th May notices with regret the *fracas* which took place between the Shias and Sunnis of Bhagalpur on the 14th April last in connection with the late *alam* procession. The Shias of Bhagalpur, who were hitherto forbidden to take out *alam*, requested the Magistrate for permission to take it out on this occasion. The latter referred the matter to the Divisional Commissioner, who, quite ignorant of the existence of hostility between the two sects, granted the request. The Shias then invited some Sunnis to attend the procession, but while taking the procession out met with opposition at the hands of the Sunnis. Syed Irteza Hossain, a respectable Shia zamindar of the place, got excited and caused the death of one of his Sunni menials in cold blood. The body of the deceased was found in the compound of Irteza Hossain's house. The police ought to make a searching enquiry into the affair.

SANJIVANI,
May 25th, 1895.

6. The *Sanjivani* of the 25th May draws the attention of the Calcutta police authorities to a growing class of *gundas* who publicly gamble in the streets, and thereby cheat innocent passers-by, towards whom they sometimes do not hesitate to use force in order to extort money. A few days ago two Musalmans protested against their unlawful conduct, upon which the band of ruffians assaulted them, broke their heads and took to their heels, when a large crowd was drawn by the alarm raised by the injured persons. The police, however, discreetly made itself scarce on the occasion.

SANJIVANI.

7. A correspondent of the same paper writes that in Barpeta, Assam, there was so long no grogshop or brothel, but of late these two evils have made their appearance there, with the necessary accompaniments of thieves, ruffians and gamblers. A band of ruffians under the lead of a nephew of a local pleader is committing depredation upon the people without let or hindrance, and has made itself a terror to honest people and the chastity of their women. If these ruffians fail

Lawlessness in Barpeta, Assam.

in carrying out their purpose; they revenge themselves upon their helpless victims by setting their houses on fire. The Subdivisional Officer should lose no time in putting down the lawlessness of these ruffians.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

8. The *Bangavasi* of the 18th May has the following:—

BANGAVASI,
May 18th, 1895.

Rigour of criminal justice in India.

The rigour of criminal administration is gradually and steadily increasing in this country. The foreign Government of the country is daily infusing into the administration a measure of rigour and sternness which is considerably larger than that which marked the establishment of British rule in India. While the rulers think that this will do them good, their subjects believe that this is doing them a great deal of harm. As a matter of fact, however, the adoption of this policy is proving beneficial to the subjects also.

Englishmen are foreigners. The country they live in is not even in the neighbourhood of India. In coming to this country they have to cross seas, traverse the dominions of foreign potentates, and sometimes to pass along the boundaries of those dominions. And those that succeed in coming in this way are few in number—a mere handful as compared with the vast population of this country. This handful of foreigners are called upon to rule over these millions of Indians. A person who in his own country is as powerful and influential as a king, generally proves in a foreign country as weak and discredited as a thief. Such is the common experience of human nature. But the very opposite of this is seen in the administration of India by Englishmen. Here are found foreigners from a strange land coming to India and ruling over her people and weakening them, and they are doing this not by means of numerical superiority. The phenomenon is indeed a striking one.

The secret, of course, lies in the Englishman's administrative tact and ability. By means of his rigorous administration the Englishman has kept the Indians in a state of perpetual dread. That the presence of a handful of Englishmen in this country is sufficient to lead the natives to realise the stern frowning looks of an Englishman in almost every matter is the secret of the success of the British rule in India. That an Englishman is infallible; that an Englishman's body is impervious to attack; that an Englishman is above all law and justice,—it is this idea which every English officer in this country is constantly seeking to impress on the minds of the Indians. It is for this that if a common European loafer in India chances to get his feet pricked, even the mightiest English Government is quite upset with fear and anxiety. It is for this reason, and in order that the prestige of the white skin may be maintained, that there is separate provision made in the law for the trial of European defendants in criminal cases, and that European Judges try such offenders with a different frame of mind.

During the earlier years of their rule, the British Government were not able to fully understand the feelings and disposition of the people of this country. Hence it was that the policy which it adopted in the administration of the country was a combination of fear, sympathy and sternness, and was marked partly by a spirit of leniency and conciliation, and partly by rigorous punishment. But with the lapse of time, the English rulers are understanding the feelings and disposition of the natives more and more clearly; and understanding this, are ever anxious to so direct the current of the administration, as may make it increasingly stern and rigorous.

Now in this connexion, the British Government has by its own indiscretion brought another danger upon itself. It has made promises of a considerable amount of liberty to the subject native population of India. By proclaiming the theory that the free and the subject population are equal, it has rendered the work of administration in this country still more complex and intricate. And the support given to this theory by a handful of English advocates of equality and fraternity, who are singularly wanting in common sense, has had the effect of increasing the difficulty of the situation. The fact is if, owing to all these circumstances, the majority of Indian people come to think that they are in all matters the equals of their rulers, it will be a great danger for the British Government. Hence it is that for the purpose of clearly impressing the

subject population with the fact of the majesty and vastness of the English administration, the rigour of the administration is being increased now-a-days.

Many express the opinion that now-a-days very little respect is shown to justice, either in the work of administration or the dispensation of criminal justice. But it behoves these people to remember that it would be impossible for a foreign Government to successfully govern this country, if justice were respected in the fullest measure. Would the twenty-seven crores of Indians living in their own country so readily and obediently obey day and night the orders of twenty-seven thousands of foreigners, if the former did not live in perpetual dread of a rigorous administration? We do not blame the British Government. It understands its own interests, and is doing what it thinks best for the purpose of promoting those interests. It may be mistaken in this, and its action may not unlikely prove injurious to the subjects. But why should not this be the case? The interests of the foreign Government and the interests of the Indian population can never be identical. We think they cannot possibly be so. If it is a fact that those interests can never be identical, why should we feel dissatisfied at the exhibition of administrative rigour by the British Government?

Government is doing what it thinks best for the promotion of its own interests, and no one should blame it for this. If it does not promote the interests of the subject population, they cannot help it. But if the subject can, consistently with his duty of obeying the orders of his sovereign, see his way to further his own interests, it is clearly his duty to try his best to do so. And this he ought to do, not by opposing Government in the work of administration, but by helping it in that work, and by trying to divert the current of administration by influencing it by the wishes and aspirations of the whole subject people. This object will not be gained by quarrel and opposition. The relation of sovereign and subject is one of great importance. That relation is founded upon love, respect, attachment and sympathy; and this foundation is never strengthened by quarrel or opposition. That course of action is always reprehensible which gradually weakens a strong foundation, converts affection into disaffection, and love and sympathy into malice and ill-feeling. Every intelligent man must therefore see that the sovereign and subject alike as well as the whole country will be benefited in proportion as dissensions between the rulers and the ruled become rare and disappear.

To maintain this relation of sovereign and subject in force will require love and affection in the subjects. But if the Government fail to attract the hearts of the subjects, if owing to their misfortune, the down-fallen Indian population really find themselves unable to entertain those feelings for their rulers, there is still no ground for despondency. If the rigour with which Government is conducting criminal administration is continued for some time longer, and the people are extremely harassed and oppressed, the result will be no less beneficial. Good comes out of evil. For this is the law which obtains in the empire of the source of all good.

CHARU MIHIR,
May 21st, 1895.

9. The *Charu Minir* of the 21st May says that Mr. Radice, Joint-Magistrate of Mymensingh, has issued the following order:—

"The parties to a case are hereby informed that at the time of the defendant's reply no one connected with the defendant party should communicate to the defendant any part of his reply or the names of his witnesses. Anyone who violates this order will be proceeded against for contempt of court—13th May 1895. (Sd.) C. A. Radice." Though this order has been ostensibly addressed to the parties to suits, it is really meant for the defendants' pleaders and mukhtars. But is not Mr. Radice aware that a defendant's legal advisers have full liberty to instruct and hold consultations with him? The writer also fails to see under what law Mr. Radice refuses to accept lists of witnesses for the defence, and to issue summonses to more than three witnesses on behalf of the defendant.

It appears that the censures in the press and those of the High Court are making Mr. Radice more and more defiant of the law. The other day he turned out of court Muhammad Hossain, a mukhtar, because he did not show respect to Dr. Calvert by rising from his seat when the doctor entered into the court-room as a witness. On another occasion he made a man, who passed by a part of the verandah of the Court premises, which, by the way, Mr. Radice does not like to be used by the public, to remain standing in the court for a

long time with the tip of his nose touching the wall of the room. If the man was guilty of an offence, Mr. Radice ought to have proceeded against him according to law, instead of inflicting this novel punishment upon him. Courts of law are not places for the indulgence of one's caprice, nor does British law allow a Magistrate to assume arbitrary powers.

10. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 21st May has the following:—

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
May 21st, 1895.

A Native Deputy Magistrate compared with a European Magistrate.

Babu Asutosh Mukerji is a respectable zamindar of Masagram, a village near Burdwan. There has been of late some misunderstanding between him and some of his neighbours; and, as a consequence, brickbats have, for some time past, been thrown into his house. One of these brickbats having seriously hit his sister, a young girl, the police sent up some people, on suspicion, to the court of the local Deputy Magistrate, Babu Pramada Nath Mukerji. The pleader for the complainant girl asked the Deputy Magistrate for the favour of her examination in her own house, either by a commission or by the Deputy Magistrate himself. As a *parda-nishin* lady of great family respectability, her examination in a public court was calculated to scandalize her friends and relations. But the Deputy Magistrate declined to grant her prayer, saying that there could be no harm in her coming to court in a *palki* and giving her deposition sitting within it. Thereupon her pleader, Rai Nalinaksha Bose Bahadur, moved the Magistrate, Mr. Windsor, against the order of the Deputy Magistrate. Though a Christian and a foreigner, the Magistrate saw no reason to refuse the prayer for a commission, provided the Deputy Magistrate had no objection to its being granted. The Deputy Magistrate, however, sent up to the Magistrate a report stating the grounds of his opposition to the issue of a commission. But after perusing the report, the Magistrate thought fit to uphold the honour of the Hindu lady, and asked the Deputy Magistrate to personally examine her at her house. Let the readers of this paper now see what a large-hearted man Mr. Windsor is, and how he sympathizes with them over whom he is called upon to rule. That British rule has been able to attract to itself the love and respect of the people of India is due simply to officials like Mr. Windsor. Mr. Windsor is then deeply thanked by the writer on behalf of the people of Burdwan, and asked to respect the honour of the people confided to his care, in the way he is now doing. As regards the Deputy Magistrate, he should take lessons in good government from Mr. Windsor. He should also know that by showing, in the discharge of his duties, some sympathy with his countrymen, a native judicial officer can neither lose his prestige nor lay himself open to the charge of not holding the scale of justice even.

11. The *Vikrampur* of the 23rd May says that the Government has not done well in getting a member of the Barisal Bar to be appointed to the post of the Government Pleader of Mymensingh. The newly-appointed

VIKRAMPUR,
May 23rd, 1895.

The Mymensingh Government Pleaders.

Government Pleader, Babu Sarada Charan Ghosh, M.A., B.L., is no doubt a man of ability, but he ought not to have been preferred to a man of equal merit available in Mymensingh. It cannot be said that there is a dearth of able men in the Mymensingh Bar, and it is conjectured by some that the Government followed this somewhat unprecedented procedure as it thought that the members of the Mymensingh Bar were too independent to be appointed to the post of the Government Pleader.

12. A correspondent of the *Samay* of the 24th May thus writes about Babu Nabin Chunder Sen, late Subdivisional Officer, Ranaghat:—

SAMAY,
May 24th, 1895.

Babu Nabin Chunder Sen as Deputy Magistrate of Ranaghat.

It is notorious that Babu Nabin Chunder Sen as the Subdivisional Officer of Ranaghat was very much fond of ease. He generally used to have most of his business transacted by the Honorary Magistrates, and whenever he had to try a case himself, he did not like to enter into its intricacies, and was very much averse to listening to lengthened arguments. This is the reason, and perhaps the only reason, why he always tried to settle a case by arbitration. A few instances may be cited of the way in which he settled even the most objectionable cases by this his most favourite device. Last year a zamindar prosecuted one of his officials for forgery. Serious as the charge was, Babu Nabin Chunder Sen asked the parties to settle their difference out of court, and postponed the trial of the case several times with a view to

bring about a settlement. The zamindar, however, engaged the services of an eminent pleader, who argued the Deputy Magistrate into taking up the case for trial. The man was ultimately committed to the sessions.

Another example may be cited in proof of Babu Nabin Chunder Sen's undue partiality for arbitration. Some time ago one Gaur Baishnav was stabbed by two ruffianly young men of Ranaghat. The wound inflicted was so serious that the man had to be taken to the hospital, where he was kept under medical treatment for a period of 22 days. When the case was brought up for trial, the man was too weak to give his deposition, and the trial had to be postponed. Even in this case the Deputy Magistrate advised the complainant to settle his difference by arbitration. Fortunately, however, the Police Superintendent and the Civil Surgeon of the district paid a visit to the hospital and learnt from the complainant that the Subdivisional Officer was not willing to go on with the trial of the case. They laid the whole case before the District Magistrate of Alipore, who forthwith transferred the case for trial from the file of Babu Nabin Chunder Sen to that of a Deputy Magistrate of Alipore, who convicted both the accused, and sentenced them to rigorous imprisonment for four and six months, respectively. It is now an open secret that the District Magistrate of Alipore and the Commissioner of the Presidency Division reported to the higher authorities against Babu Nabin Chunder Sen, and that this is the reason why not only he but the whole establishment under him, including the Head clerk, the Police Inspector of the Division, the Court Sub-Inspector, and the Police Sub-Inspector, have been transferred from Ranaghat.

BANGANIVASI,
May 24th, 1895.

13. According to the *Banganivasi* of the 24th May, the Commission appointed to try Mr. Fordyce ought not to have been wheedled into postponing the examination of the accused for a week, on his application that he required this time to procure a counsel for his defence. That Mr. Fordyce had some ulterior motive in applying for the postponement of the trial, is evident from the fact that after the lapse of the week, he appeared without a counsel and proceeded to conduct his case himself. So the Commission had to sit idle for the whole week, drawing their pay from the public exchequer for no public work done during the time. And all this was done simply out of consideration to Mr. Fordyce! The Commission may of course, if they choose, demand an explanation from Mr. Fordyce for this strange conduct on his part, but there is very little difficulty in explaining his conduct. Mr. Fordyce must have long ago anticipated the result of the Commission. If the Commission find him guilty, the utmost that he will have to suffer will be the loss of his post, and he has therefore every motive now not to spend but to save money as much as he can. But let that pass; what is now wanted is a settlement of the case one way or the other. With the evidence against him, the public naturally expect that some punishment should be meted out to Mr. Fordyce, and they will have no reason to thank Sir Charles Elliott if he allows this erring Deputy Magistrate to escape scot free.

BANGANIVASI.

14. The same paper observes that Mr. Delevingne, the Subdivisional Officer of Meherpur, is a young, beardless Civilian, who may be said to be scarcely out of his swaddling cloth. But, thanks to Sir Charles Elliott, he is the lord of a subdivision which is half as large as the Nadia district. In his subdivision his power is undisputed, and he has already made it too hot for the people. In Meherpur, agrarian disputes are always cropping up, and there is always a plentiful crop of complaints lodged in the court, under the unlawful assembly, criminal trespass, and other sections of the Indian Penal Code. The young Magistrate, who tries these cases himself, is always unsparing in convicting the accused in such cases, and sentencing them to long terms of imprisonment. Strange to say, however, he does not understand the underlying principle of agrarian law, according to which the possessor for the time being is to be regarded as the owner until the complainant proves his title to the property in a civil court. The young Magistrate is not only violating this principle of law, but he is also quite unmindful of the principle of justice, that it is far better to let a hundred guilty persons escape than to punish a single innocent individual. In dispensing justice, Mr. Delevingne also appears to be cruel and vindictive. In an

agrarian case known as the Sindur Kota case, he convicted an old man of seventy and a boy of eight of the charge of unlawful assembly and dacoity, and sentenced them to rigorous imprisonment for twelve and eighteen months, respectively. One may be naturally led to wonder how a boy and a decrepit old man could commit such a heroic offence as that with which they were charged. In a similar case in Alamdanga, the Magistrate convicted the accused and punished him with imprisonment and solitary confinement, even after the death of the complainant. These are but a few of the instances of the way in which Mr. Delevingne is dispensing justice in Meherpur.

15. The *Bangavasi* of the 25th May thus points out what it calls defects in the administration of criminal justice in

Defects in the administration of criminal justice in India.

India :—

The crimes recognized by the Indian Penal Code may be divided principally in two classes. The first class comprises those offences which are not regarded as very serious by the State, and are not, therefore, recognized by the police, the injured person having the fullest liberty to exercise his discretion in prosecuting the offenders. The second class of offences is regarded as more serious, and the State recognizes them as offences against the public. In the case of the first class of offences the State is more or less indifferent. It does not take the initiative, it does not help the complainant in proving his case, nor does it care to satisfy itself as to whether his complaint is at all true. The burden of proof lies entirely on the complainant, and it lies with the defendant to prove that the complaint is false. Such a system of administering justice is, however, producing evil consequences of a serious nature. It has held out a temptation to people who, in order to gratify their spite, institute false charges against those towards whom they are inimically disposed. On the other hand, the strong and powerful often safely oppress the helpless and weak, knowing full well that the latter have not the courage or the means to prosecute them or prove their guilt in a law court. The consequence is that the law is in such cases quite powerless in keeping the turbulent elements in the society under proper control and in punishing the law-breaker. That the evil is fast spreading in the social organism is proved by the rapid growth of perjury in the Indian law courts.

In the case of the second class of offences, the State is not indifferent; it takes the initiative, it collects evidence, and it itself tries to prove the guilt of the offender instead of leaving the injured person to his own devices to do so. But even in such cases the State concerns itself with the offence after it is committed, and takes no step to prevent its commission; it does not recognize the offence before it is committed. In order to prove such cases, the State has also to depend for evidence upon individuals who, either out of selfish interests, or out of fear, often hesitate to bear witness to the guilt of turbulent offenders against the public. Such a state of things is also not desirable.

To remedy this evil, the State should appoint upright and truthful men to privately inquire into the condition of the people and keep the Government acquainted with the ins and outs of the society. It is the belief and conviction of the Hindu, almost deep-rooted in his constitution, that the king should of his own accord do everything, organize every means, to remove the misery of the people, promote their welfare, and protect them from danger. This is the reason why he does not always like to go to law even when smarting under oppression and injury. The people are, moreover, in mortal dread of the police, and sincerely believe that the injury which may be done to them by other persons is often not half so painful and severe as the oppression of those who are entrusted with the duty of keeping them safe from danger. Hence it is that people generally hesitate to lodge a complaint with the police against powerful oppressors, and they will have virtually nothing to protect them if the Government does not adopt some means by which it can make itself acquainted with an offence whenever and wherever it may be committed and instantly bring the offender to justice. And the sooner this is done, the better for the peace and prosperity of the country.

16. The same paper is at a loss to understand the drift of the policy adopted by Government in connection with the trial of Mr. Fordyce. When the Commission was appointed, the public were under the impression that Mr. Fordyce would be tried

The Fordyce Commission.

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according to law; that if his guilt was proved he would be punished, and if he could establish his innocence he would of course be acquitted. To their great surprise, however, they now learn that the Commission was appointed not to try Mr. Fordyce, but only to record evidence both for and against him, with its own opinion on the case. It was left entirely to the discretion of the Government to determine the course to be followed and arrive at a decision. This being the case, one fails to appreciate the utility of appointing a Commission. The District Magistrate had already made an investigation into the case before the Commission was appointed, and surely he could be trusted by the Government. The Government could have long ago arrived at a decision in the matter from the perusal of the report submitted by the District Magistrate with the approval of the Commissioner, and it need not have taken the trouble of going through the meaningless formality of appointing a commission.

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17. The same paper also regrets to learn that Babu Nabin Chunder Sen, Subdivisional Officer, Ranaghat, has been transferred and a Bengali civilian has been appointed in his place. Babu Nabin Chunder Sen is an executive officer of great repute, and he earned golden opinions in Ranaghat, his policy of settling a case by arbitration having specially endeared him to the public. His transfer, therefore, has caused great disappointment in Ranaghat, as has also the appointment of a civilian to take charge of a subdivision which has so long been under the administration of a Deputy Magistrate. The civilian appointed is of course a Bengali gentleman, but who can say that an Englishman may not in future take his place? Is there any connection between the appointment of a civilian in Ranaghat with the residence there of Mr. Munro? Failing to explain the incident otherwise, some people are trying to establish such connection.

(c)—Jails.

BHARAT MITRA,
May 26th, 1895.

18. The *Bharat Mitra* of the 26th May hopes that Government will condescend to assist the Association which has recently been formed in the North-Western Provinces with a view to provide released prisoners with means to reach their homes.

(d)—Education.

TRIPURA PRAKASH,
May 18th, 1895.

19. A Brahmanbaria correspondent of the *Tripura Prakash* says that, in the absence of a society for the moral training of young men, the morals of the schoolboys in Brahmanbaria are getting corrupted. They have no healthy recreation, and after coming back from school they pass the evening in the streets in filthy talk and filthier occupations. There are two opera parties in the place, and the schoolboys often amuse themselves in the most reprehensible way in the company of their members. The head-master of the school is quite indifferent towards the conduct of his pupils.

CHARU MIHIR,
May 21st, 1895.

20. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* of the 21st May complains that Babu Radhakisor Chakravarti, Deputy Inspector of Schools, Mymensingh, behaved very rudely towards the teachers of the Pingna Middle English School, on the occasion of his visit to that school about three months ago. He took away the visitors' book and did not return it for six months. He again visited the school lately and took away the book and has not yet returned it.

BANGAVASI,
May 25th, 1895.

21. According to the *Bangavasi* of the 25th May, the Society for the Higher Training of Young Men must have so long been imparting moral training to its members with a vengeance. The Society is missing books from the library, and this loss of books must be attributed to the Society's own members, none but whom can enter its sacred precincts. A promiscuous moral training not based upon religion, could not be expected to produce better results.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

22. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* of the 21st May says that the large number of people who have to go to Netrakona every day by the Teligati road, in the Netrakona subdivision of the Mymensingh district, feel the greatest inconvenience for the want of a regular ferry over the Ghaghra khali canal which crosses the road near Nasibpur, and remains very deep from the commencement of the rains till the beginning of winter.

CHARU MIHIR,
May 21st, 1895.

23. The *Hitavadi* of the 24th May is glad to learn that Rai Madhub Chandra Roy Bahadur is willing to act as Mr. Kimber's *locum tenens* in the Calcutta Municipality. Considering the ability with which the Rai Bahadur served the Government, it is to be hoped that the Municipal Commissioners will give him preference over other candidates.

HITAVADI,
May 24th, 1895.

24. The same paper says that the reproachful terms in which Sir Charles Elliott spoke of the Goragacha trenching-ground on his recent visit to the place, would have induced one to suppose that His Honour seriously meant to stop the nuisance. When speaking of the remedy, however, His Honour contented himself with saying that the improved drainage system shortly to be introduced would remove all cause of complaint. The proposed drainage improvement will, however, take not less than five years in its completion, and should the residents of Goragacha go on all this time suffering from this nuisance?

HITAVADI.

25. The *Sanjivani* of the 25th May makes the following observations on the formation of the Village Union Committees in Bengal:—

SANJIVANI,
May 25th, 1895.

Village Union Committees in Bengal.

We do not fully approve the method adopted by the Government in forming the Village Union Committees in Bengal, but we nevertheless thank it for the boon, small as it is, which it is going to confer on the people and ask them to make the best use of it. "The nation," says John Bright, "dwells in the cottage." This is especially true of the Indian nation, and in India, therefore, the foundation of national life should be laid in the villages. To win and enjoy political rights is one of the most powerful means of forming a sound and fully developed national life. The Indian people, who were long deprived of the enjoyment of political rights, have so long been leading a tame and listless national life which is now most likely going to be revived into strength and vigour by the infusion into it of the new blood of self-government. Now that the Government is going to prepare the ground for the foundation of the Indian national life, the people, especially the rising generation, should see that the foundation is laid deep in every village in Bengal. Our young men are the hopes of the nation. To their efforts, as says Mr. Cotton in his *New India*, are due the beginnings of national life in this country, and it is to them that we look forward for its strengthening and development.

26. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 27th May complains of the Government's breach of promise in regard to the Road Cess and Famine Funds. These funds have been diverted from their original purpose. The Famine Fund was employed in carrying on the frontier wars, and the Road Cess Fund is being now made to serve the purpose of the Famine Fund, when it ought to have been employed in supplying good water to the village population. If the Road Cess Fund had been rightly employed, people would not have had to suffer from such severe scarcity of water during this hot season when a drop of good water is not to be found in one village either for love or for money. Such breaches of promise, however, are doing the Government incalculable harm: it is forfeiting the confidence of the people.

SULABH DAINIK,
May 27th, 1895.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

27. The *Hitavadi* of the 24th May has the following:—

A railway complaint.

On the 8th May last, a Hindu girl named Rajbala was coming to the East Indian Railway line by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. At Asansol a ticket-collector wanted to

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examine her ticket, but she could not produce it, and said that she had probably lost it. On this the ticket-collector demanded the usual fare and the fine. The girl being unable to pay this, she was made to alight from the carriage. Four men named Bartlett, Landeman, Calley and DeSouza, the latter a gunner-guard, then took her to DeSouza's house, and all four of them committed the most brutal outrage on the poor girl. The case having been brought to the notice of the Traffic Superintendent at Howrah, he enquired into it, and finding all the four men named above guilty of the offence charged against them, he proposed to dismiss them all. The Traffic Manager, however, did not agree in this view, and he discharged only DeSouza from service, and inflicted lighter punishments on the rest of the lot, and on one Heher, another ticket-collector. But these punishments can scarcely be considered enough for the ends of justice.

The case has struck horror into the minds of the native public. They will not be able to travel by rail with their wives and daughters, with a sense of perfect security, so long as the railway authorities do not take additional precautions against the commission of such outrages, and fail to inflict exemplary punishment on their offending employés. It is hoped that now that the case is published in a newspaper, the Traffic Manager will make a proper enquiry into it, and properly punish the offenders.

Besides his complicity in the above case, the ticket-collector Heher stands charged with another offence. On the 7th May last, a gentleman was travelling from Jahanabad to Calcutta, and had in his company his sister and some other members of his family. The station officers at Jahanabad put up a board at the door of a second-class compartment reserving it for females. The lady with the children was travelling in this compartment, and the gentleman was travelling in the adjoining compartment. At Asansol the ticket-collector Heher wanted him to remove himself into the female compartment, because there was no other empty second class compartment, and a missionary gentleman who wanted to travel, would not do so in a compartment occupied by a native. On the native gentleman's refusing to comply with Heher's request, the latter tore off the board at the door of the female compartment, and told him that if he did not remove himself to that compartment, the missionary gentleman would travel in it. As there was no time to make a complaint to the station-master, the native gentleman was obliged to change his compartment. When this incident took place, Heher was not in his uniform and had no number on. The case, however, having been investigated, it has been decided to punish Heher; but the writer does not yet know what punishment will be inflicted on him.

It is hoped the Traffic Manager will do his best to remove such grievances, or the native public will be obliged to memorialise Government and the Directors on the subject.

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28. The position of females in railway carriages, says a correspondent of the *Sanjivani* of the 25th May, is growing more and more insecure. Here are the particulars of an outrage attempted to be committed on the East Indian Railway line on the 19th May last. On that day, in a passenger train which was timed at Howrah at 11 P.M. (Madras time), a gentleman and his companion occupied a compartment of a second-class carriage, No. 59. The next was an intermediate class carriage, No. 159, a compartment of which was set apart for female passengers. At 10 o'clock in the night when the train reached the Bhadreswar station, and when almost all the passengers were fast asleep, a Babu in the European dress was seen entering the second-class carriage mentioned above. The occupants of the carriage were comfortably dozing away at the time, and they could not distinctly see the man; but one of them, the companion of the gentleman who has already been mentioned, was roused by a noise, and he saw the new-comer standing by the side of the door, and as soon as the train started, creeping along the food-board towards the female compartment. The next moment he was seen attempting to enter the female compartment. An alarm was raised, and the man was secured by some of the passengers who, reaching the next station, called out for the railway police, to whom they intended to hand him over. The station staff, however, did not respond before the man had made his escape after a severe struggle with the

Insecurity of female passengers
on railways.

passengers who had secured him. Strange to say, there was no light in a single carriage at that time.

29. A correspondent of the same paper has something to say in addition to the complaints made in the last issue of the paper against the management of the Tirhut Railway. (See Report on Native Papers ending the 25th May, paragraph 28.) There was a difference between the head clerk and a subordinate clerk of the Traffic Manager's office. The head clerk, after repeated warnings, reported to the Traffic Manager against his subordinate. The Manager at once suspended the poor clerk, and asked the railway authorities for their permission to dismiss him. The severity of this punishment is surely out of all proportion to the seriousness of the offence.

The penny-wise-and-pound-foolish policy of the Railway Company is as much a cause of inconvenience and danger to the public as is the conduct of the Traffic Manager painful and oppressive to his subordinates. Guided by this policy, the Company abolished the post of the pointsman at Dalsingsarai, and immediately after this there was a collision of trains at that place. The Company has lately reduced the pay of gatemen, and have appointed boys to take charge of the gates at the railway crossings. The natural consequences of such a course of policy are already manifesting themselves. On the 18th May last, the boy gate-keeper of Dalsingsarai was absent from his place at night, when a bullock cart with passengers attempted to cross the line and was overrun by a passing train. The passengers were severely wounded and are now in a critical condition. The railway hospital also is in a very miserable condition. The room for the in-door patients is narrow and ill-ventilated, and an Apothecary has taken the place of an Assistant Surgeon.

(h)—General.

30. With reference to the remark of the writer on Indian affairs in the *Times* newspaper that the present Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal is conferring without stint the higher posts in the public service on native officers of proved merit, the *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 21st May observes as follows:—

We heartily wish the remarks of the writer were true and the present Lieutenant-Governor really deserved the encomiums passed on him. Unfortunately, however, the picture drawn by the writer is an imaginary picture and has no existence in reality. It is true that Sir Charles Elliott appointed Mr. Dutt temporarily to the Commissionership of the Burdwan Division. But for that appointment, His Honour can hardly take any credit to himself for sympathy for the Indian people. Sir Charles Elliott appointed Mr. Dutt to the Commissionership of Burdwan simply because he had no other course left open to him. Mr. Dutt is a civilian of long standing, experience and ability. For the time being there was present no other civilian who was his senior, and he was therefore, as a matter of fact, entitled to the post. Even Sir Charles Elliott had not the heart to take up the gauntlet of public criticism and run the risk of creating public discontent by overriding the claim of Mr. Dutt in favour of a junior officer. This instance, therefore, cannot prove the statement of the writer in the *Times*, and barring this solitary instance, there is not a shred of fact to prove its truth. On the other hand, from the several appointments of native officers which Sir Charles Elliott has made of late, it is quite patent that it is his set policy to deprive the natives of the higher posts in the Executive Service. He has appointed no native officer to the District Magistrate and Collectorship, but he has managed to transfer some of the ablest native officers from the Executive to the Judicial and other branches of the public service. Babu Krishna Govinda Gupta has been long serving with great credit as a District Magistrate and Collector, but he has been brought down from his eminence, and appointed Commissioner of the Excise Department. Babu Nanda Krishna Bose is a Statutory Civilian of long standing, and has been long serving with credit as a District Magistrate. He has now been appointed a Secretary of the Revenue Board, and is made to do the drudgery of an ordinary clerk. On these grounds we cannot agree to swell the chorus of praise raised by the writer in the *Times* newspaper.

SANJIVANI,
May 25th, 1895.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
May 21st, 1895.

CHARU MIHIR,
May 21st, 1895.

31. The *Charu Mihir* of the 21st May cannot understand why Maulvi Abdul Ali Khan, Sub-Registrar of Netrakona, and a very junior officer, has been appointed to act as Special Sub-Registrar of Mymensingh during the permanent incumbent's absence, and wonders how such an injustice has been perpetrated under the eyes of Mr. Earle, the District Magistrate, who is known to be an upright man. Babu Krishna Chandra Sarkar, Sub-Registrar of Tangail, is an old and experienced man, and on three occasions officiated as Special Sub-Registrar. Maulvi Nowsher Ali Khan Hansafji, Sub-Registrar of Pakulya, is an able and educated officer, and his name was included in the list which was given in the annual report of the Registration Department for 1893-94 as that of the officers who had served the Department well. Maulvi Tolataff Hossain, B.A., Sub-Registrar of Sherpur, is an educated man; Maulvi Muhammad, Sub-Registrar of Iswarganj, is an experienced officer. And all these men are senior to Maulvi Abdul Ali, the latter having entered the Department only two years, and having spent the greater part of even those two years on leave. If an enquiry is instituted as to how he came to be appointed to his new post, some disclosures may be arrived at.

SAHACHAR,
May 22nd, 1895.

32. The *Sahachar* of the 22nd May says that, considering the fearful prevalence of cholera and small-pox this year in every part of Bengal, and particularly in Calcutta, and the extreme probability of the diseases breaking out among the pilgrims who will shortly visit the temple of Jagannath, the Hindu public should carefully consider the risk they would run in undertaking the pilgrimage this year. It would be inadvisable for Government to interfere in a religious matter of the Hindus by prohibiting the pilgrimage this year, and it is hoped that the Hindus will themselves have some regard for their lives, and postpone the pilgrimage till the *Rath Jatra* festival next year. But as it is not likely that all intending pilgrims will be dissuaded by fear of disease from undertaking the pilgrimage, it is necessary that the Municipality of Calcutta and other municipalities through which pilgrims will pass, should require every one of them to leave their respective jurisdictions within twenty-four hours, and detain and provide for the treatment of those who may be found attacked with either cholera or small-pox. This will require money, and the writer is not at present prepared to say where money is to come from; but it is absolutely necessary to make such an arrangement. Government and the Puri and Cuttack Municipalities, too, should provide for a supply of good drinking water to the pilgrims both on their way from Cuttack to Puri and within Puri itself. The writer has ascertained by thorough enquiry that no such supply is to be had at present. In Puri the only reservoir which can supply good water is the well situated near the court-house, but it is not possible for a single reservoir like it to supply millions of pilgrims with drinking water. The cause of the cholera epidemic, which is more an epidemic of diarrhoea than of true cholera, which breaks out among the pilgrims every year is the eating of bad food and the drinking of bad water. Government ought to take a portion of the enormous income which is derived from pilgrims by the temple people, and devote it to the making of satisfactory arrangements for water and lodging-houses for the pilgrims. During the pilgrimage season Government should also employ a number of doctors to attend to the needs of the pilgrims both on their way to Puri and within Puri.

SANJIVANI,
May 25th, 1895.

33. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* of the 25th May points out the trouble and inconvenience suffered by the clerks belonging to several departments of the Post Office, and refers to the proposed transfer of the Office of the Comptroller of Post Offices to Chinsura. Such transfer will be a source of as much inconvenience to the poor clerks as is the location of the offices of the Director-General and the Postmaster-General in such an out-of-the-way place as Chowringhee. It is expected that Mr. Fanshawe, who has returned from England, will be able to find a way out of this difficulty. In his own office there is very little accommodation for the large number of clerks who huddle together in a small room to their great inconvenience and also to the prejudice of their health. The whole problem could be easily solved if the Comptroller's office could be located in the building in Koyla Ghat Street which was some time ago occupied by

the Military Department. But the Military Department is not willing to give it up.

34. The *Hindi Bangavasi* of the 27th May says that the Civil Surgeon of Monghyr was fined Rs. 10 by a local *hakim* for offering bodily violence to Babu Haragauri Narayan, an *amla* of the Magistrate's Court, who was deputed by the *amla* of the Court to solicit the doctor to exempt them from compulsory vaccination. The doctor was punished for his misconduct, but there is none to check Government from carrying out the practice of compulsory vaccination, which is nothing short of an act of high-handedness because it is an interference with the religion of the Hindus.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
May 27th, 1895.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

35. The *Hitavadi* of the 24th May says that even the most exact mathematician will fail to calculate the fraction of the vast population of this Indian Empire which exercise the power of voting in elections for the Legislative Councils. The people of four such large districts as Dacca, Faridpur, Barisal, and Mymensingh will vote through only five representatives, and this is to be called an election. The people of India cannot be satisfied with such a franchise, as it is not a franchise, but only an apology for it.

HITAVADI,
May 24th, 1895.

36. The *Mihir* of the 25th May has the following:—

Though the Musalman population of Bengal is not less numerous than the Hindu, the privilege of local self-government and of electing members for the Bengal Council is enjoyed solely by the Hindus, and has made them so powerful that next to the English rulers they appear to be the most dominant people in the province. This would not have been the case if in every place where the franchise was introduced, the number of persons to be elected had been fixed in proportion to the population. Take, for instance, the ensuing election for the Bengal Council to be held in the Dacca Division. Most districts in this Division are inhabited largely by Muhammadans, but the members of the District Boards being all Hindus, the gentleman who will be elected for the seat in the Council will, in all certainty, be a Hindu. Indeed, not a single seat in the Council will fall to the lot of a Musalman at the ensuing election. Would it be a wonder after this, if a foreigner thought that India was inhabited by Hindus alone? The paucity of Musalman members in the District and Local Boards is defended by some on the ground that the Musalmans are not yet fully educated, that is to say, are not yet thoroughly versed in the English tongue. But the writer thinks that those Boards would be better served if their members were recruited not from among rich and English-educated men seeking Government's favour, but from among the headmen of villages. As matters now stand, though Government calls the members of the local bodies, and some members of the Bengal Council, members who have been elected by the people, the people themselves have very little to do with these elections, and know nothing about the persons who are elected.

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But the power of the Hindus has been pressing so heavily upon the Musalmans, that it will not be long before the latter try to throw off the yoke.

Sir Charles Elliott is to be thanked for laying down the rule that no one who is not the resident of a division should be returned for it at the ensuing election.

In conclusion, the writer quotes the following from the *Bangavasi*, a Hindu paper, with the view of showing how the Hindus are exercising the elective right of which they are taking so much advantage:—"Great excitement prevails over the ensuing elections for the Bengal Council. People's conduct in this connection has made even the *Indian Mirror*, a foremost leader of the Congress, declare that if the contests over these elections prove nothing else, they clearly show great jealousy in the Bengali character. For this and other reasons, we have always said that local self-government on the English model is not a thing suited to this country. But when we say this, wiseacres like the editor of the *Indian Mirror* turn a deaf ear to us."

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

TRIPURA PRAKASH,
May 13th, 1895.

37. A correspondent of the *Tripura Prakash* of the 13th May writes as follows:—

The present condition of Independent Tippera.

The way in which the clique of conspirators are carrying on their acts of tyranny and depredation, and the miserable plight into which 'the State has been brought by their misrule in the absence of able and conscientious Ministers, make one shudder to think of its future. The Government has already asked the Maharaja to appoint an able Prime Minister, and apply the pruning knife vigorously to the ever-growing State expenditure. But the State officials are showing no signs of a re-awakening, and are quite as indifferent to the welfare of the people as ever. They have of late proposed the formation of a State Council which is to consist of the *Jubaraj*, the *Burra Thakur*, some of the other minor *Thakurs*, and a few Babus. The Council is going to be formed ostentatiously for the better government of the State; but if our experience is to serve us right, there must be some ulterior motive in view. During the Prime Ministership of Dhanunjoy Thakur, such a Council was formed simply with the object of thwarting him in his purpose to govern the State well. On the present occasion, too, it has been resolved to appoint Dhanunjoy Thakur Secretary of the proposed Council. It cannot be that such a step is going to be taken in order to honour him and recognize his good services to the country; for had it been so, his claim to the Prime Ministership would not have been, a few years ago, overridden by the State officials. The real object of appointing Dhanunjoy Thakur to the Secretaryship of the proposed Council is to remove him from his present position. As a fearless and conscientious Judge he is still dispensing justice with an even hand, and has in more instances than one proved himself a powerful enemy of misrule and tyranny. He is now the only obstacle in the way of the clique of conspirators, and that obstacle removed, there will be nothing to check them in their course of tyranny and depredation.

And all this time the Maharaja, the *Jubaraj* and the *Burra Thakur* all seem to sleep the sleep of ignorance. Are they really unaware of the danger which is staring the State in the face? Or is it that they are fully aware of the danger ahead, but are unmindful of the welfare of the people, and have silently given their sanction to the reign of terror, and misrule brought about by the clique of conspirators? We venture to think the truth is otherwise. They are all very good and honest people. In fact, men of their stamp are very rare among our princes and chiefs. But like all their brethern in India, they are helplessly in the hands of the surroundings, and they will remain incapable of doing good as long as they are not freed from the influence of the conspirators and strengthened with the strength of able and conscientious advisers. The Government was not well advised in removing the Political Agent from Agartala at this moment of crisis. The absence of that official has caused the Maharaja the loss of a valuable guide and adviser, and the people that of a powerful enemy of tyranny and misgovernment.

HITAVADI,
May 24th, 1895.

38. The *Hitavadi* of the 24th May has the following regarding those people who are crying out against the so-called misgovernment in Independent Tippera:—

The cry of misgovernment in Independent Tippera.

Those people who are writing against the so-called misgovernment in Independent Tippera want everybody to say that they are the real well-wishers of the State, although from their conduct they appear to be its enemies. Everybody who is connected with a newspaper, or who is in the habit of regularly reading newspapers, knows what a mischievous thing it is to appoint a Political Agent in a Native State. Yet a patriotic correspondent of a certain Brahmo paper, who poses as a well-wisher of the Tippera State, feels the absolute necessity of having a Political Agent there, because the appointment of such an agent will do more good than harm to it, and will not lower the Maharaja's prestige. Yes, the Maharaja will get his truest friend indeed in a Political Agent! Not the least difference of opinion exists as to the inadvisability of appointing a Political Agent in a Native State. There is no help where Government appoints such an officer of its own motion. But how can those people, who want to force Government to appoint such officers in the Native States in which they have not been as yet appointed, call themselves well-wishers of the country? They may call themselves friends of the

Native States and friends of the country, but the public will not regard them as such.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

39. The *Sahachar* of the 22nd May says that it is fortunate for India that the Commission which has been appointed to enquire into her civil and military expenditures

SAHACHAR,
May 22nd, 1895.

The Royal Commission. contains three of her truest friends in the persons of Sir William Wedderburn, Mr. Caine and Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji, who, moreover, are all three men of experience in Indian matters. The appointment of these gentlemen is a guarantee that the Commission will draw out the truth in spite of the attempts that are sure to be made to suppress it. The large number of Anglo-Indian members who have been appointed to the Commission, and the Secretary of State himself, who has no personal experience of India, and who is guided entirely by the advice of his counsellors, will, however, oppose India's interests, and may make the Commission a source of evil to the country. And this fear is intensified by the fact that the terms of the reference to the Commission are not what were asked for by India's friends in Parliament. While they wanted the Commission to enquire into the present condition of the Indian people; into their ability to pay the taxes imposed upon them; into the means adopted by Government to realise those taxes, whether those means were suited to the time, and whether the expenditures of the Government of India could not be reduced, the authorities have empowered the Commission only to make an adjustment of India's civil and military expenditures. If Government really wants to improve India's condition, it should do its best to strictly balance her income and expenditure. And this can be done only by instituting an enquiry into both her income and expenditure, and not simply into expenditure. To try to adjust expenditure without first ascertaining what the revenue is, is like making an attempt to create a living man without a head. There is yet time for the Secretary of State to suitably alter the terms of the reference, so as to make them include an enquiry into the revenues as well.

40. The same paper has the following:—

SAHACHAR.

"The *Englishman* found out."

The *Englishman* has been found out. General Gough considers it impossible for Russia to invade India with any chance of success, if the Government in India can keep the different races and nationalities which inhabit this country at peace with each other. The *Englishman* opposes this view by saying that the best policy for Government to follow is rather to create dissensions among the peoples of India; for, if that is done, the entire people inhabiting this country will never combine against the British Government. The writer in the *Englishman* then instances the sepoy mutiny, which was not joined in by the Musalmans, because of a quarrel existing at the time between them and the Hindus. After this confession, how will the *Englishman* deny the truth of the charge made against the Government of intentionally creating dissensions between different sections of the Indian community? It is now clear that Government is following this policy, though it does not make the admission. It needs scarcely be pointed out that it is a mistaken policy which Government is following. If Government persists in this policy of setting class against class, the result will be that ultimately the entire people will be offended with British rule. The best policy has been indicated by General Gough. The Government should learn to deal sincerely by the people, because that will be the best policy that can be followed in order to secure the strength and firmness of the empire.

41. A correspondent of the *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 23rd May attributes the quarrels which frequently break out between the Hindus and Musalmans of Mathurapur

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
May 23rd, 1895.

Hindu-Musalman quarrels. in the Muzaffarpur district to the existence of a *Gorakshani Sabha* in the village. Lately there was a serious riot between the Hindus and Musalmans in the vicinity of Sardar Khan's musjid in the place.

42. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 28th May highly approves of the honours conferred on Babu Hem Chunder Kur and Maharaj Kumar Binaya Krishna Deb, the former being made

SULABH DAINIK,
May 28th, 1895.

The Birth day honours. a Rai Bahadur and the latter a Raja. Babu Hem Chunder served the Government meritoriously for a long time in the capacity of a Deputy Magistrate.

He always acted conscientiously without caring for the favour or frowns of his superior officers. His honour comes a little too late, but better late than never. As for Maharaj Kumar Binaya Krishna, he is entitled to the highest honour and distinction. One cannot approve of every act that he has done; but with all his failings, he is a man who has few equals. He is an ardent patriot, and a great patron of Bengali literature. He takes part in all healthy public movements, and he bears a spotless character. The public would like to see him very soon made a Maharaja.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 1st June 1895.